

“THE PATH TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM (Part 2)”

Pastor Mark Johnson

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REVIEW: In Part 1 of this message last Sunday, we looked at **Five Characteristics of Financial Freedom:**

1. Having all your needs supplied (Phil. 4:19; 1Tim. 5:8).
2. Being content with what you have (Lk. 12:15; 1Tim. 6:6, 8, 10).
3. Not having excess debt (Prov. 22:7).
 - A. Paying more interest than good stewardship warrants (on depreciating /gone items).
 - B. Having difficulty paying your debts off (Ps. 37:21).
 - C. Causing undue stress (Phil. 4:6).
4. Giving all that God wants you to give (2Cor. 9:8).
5. Being available for God to use your finances to bless others (2Cor. 9:11).

THE 4 CORNERSTONES OF BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

1. Working - a strong work ethic (Dt. 8:18; Prov. 10:4; Ecc. 9:10; Col. 3:23-24).
2. Managing – stewardship (Matt. 25:14-30).

Additional Principles of Stewardship:

- 1) God owns it all (Ps. 24:1; 50:50; Hag. 2:8).
- 2) We are stewards (1Pet. 4:10; 1Cor. 4:1).
- 3) We are called to be faithful stewards and are rewarded accordingly (1Cor. 4:1; Matt. 25:14-30).
3. Praying - with faith (Matt. 6:9a, 11; Mk. 11:24; Ja. 4:2-3; 1n. 5:14-15).
4. Giving – sowing precedes reaping (Lk. 6:38; Gal. 6:7; 2Cor. 9:6-8)!

THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHING.

- A. All the tithe is the Lord's and is holy (Lev. 27:30).
- B. The Israelites under the old covenant were guilty of robbing God by not paying their tithes (Mal. 3:8-9).
- C. All the tithe was to be brought to God's house and God promised to bless the tithers (Mal. 3:10).
 1. God's math: 90% with God's blessing goes further than 100% without God's blessing!
- D. God promised to rebuke the devourer on behalf of tithers (Mal. 3:11-12).

IS TITHING A NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLE?

1. Why did God wait until the last book of the O.T. to give the most thorough teaching on tithing?
2. Jesus told the scribes & Pharisees that they shouldn't leave tithing undone (Matt. 23:23; Lk. 11:42)
3. The author of Hebrews indicated that tithing was still being practiced at that time [64-69 AD] (Heb. 7:8).

Tithing Reflections:

1. Do you think God would be upset with you if you tithed and it turned out not to be N.T.?
2. Can the God who provided for the old covenant tither provide for a new covenant tither?
3. How much do you trust God – enough to tithe?
4. If not, start somewhere specific and make regular incremental increases!

The Principle of Firstfruits – giving God the first part and the best part (not leftovers).

1. God promised abundance to those who honor Him with the firstfruits of all their increase (Prov. 3:9-10).
2. The firstfruits is the first part of your increase, before any other spending (Ex. 23:19; 34:26; Deut. 18:4; Num. 18:12)
3. Giving God the first part is a symbol of honoring God as being first in your life (Matt. 6:33).
4. Sow seed and eat bread (2Cor. 9:10-11)!

CONCLUSION: God wants you to have financial freedom! What do you need to do differently in 2026?